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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – J.E.E.B.
CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION**

We have completed a review of J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation (J.E.E.B.). J.E.E.B. contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). J.E.E.B. is a six-bed facility, located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for boys ages 7-14 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, J.E.E.B. was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that J.E.E.B. was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of J.E.E.B.'s Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed with J.E.E.B. at the time of the review. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by J.E.E.B., and to ensure its adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, J.E.E.B. is providing the services outlined in its Program Statement although the agency needs to improve its Needs and Services Plan and Quarterly Reports.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Bennie Wharton, Executive Director, J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation

J. E. E. B. CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
3703 South Genesee Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
(323) 292-8994
License No.: 191800663
Rate Classification Level: 7

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home is located in a quiet residential neighborhood. The home is well maintained and blends with the other homes in the area. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was neat and clean. The furnishings were appropriate providing a comfortable environment for the children. The bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized by each child.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, VCR, half-court basketball, and ping-pong table. There were a variety of age-appropriate books, a computer, and other resource material accessible to the children.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit, properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

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One resident's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was realistic and time limited but not specific, measurable, or attainable. The resident's placement worker did not participate in the development and updating of the NSP.

The resident's Quarterly Report, although timely, was incomplete as it did not focus on the goals that should have been stated in the NSP. The other resident did not require a NSP or a Quarterly Report at the time of the review.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

- 1. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation management:**
 - a. Develop Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable and attainable.**
 - b. Write Quarterly Reports that focus on the goals stated in the Needs and Services Plan.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were enrolled in public school. One resident required but did not have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) on file because of recently being transferred to a new school. However, efforts were underway to provide the child with the appropriate academic program. The other resident did not require an IEP and had current report cards in his file.

The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis including working with a tutor at least twice per week, participating in a reading circle, and completing academic work books.

The residents were too young for emancipation services but are encouraged to participate in age-appropriate daily living skills such as maintaining good personal hygiene, exhibiting good manners, putting away their clothes, taking care of their toys, making their beds, and taking out the trash.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation followed a monthly activity schedule that incorporated a variety of activities during the week and on the weekends. The residents were encouraged to contribute suggestions and opinions regarding prospective activities. Activities include going to the movies, beach, Santa Monica Pier, Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream Store, Sizzler, skateboarding, and the library.

During free and recreation time the residents have the opportunity to play table games, sports, read, and work at the computer. Both residents indicated that they enjoyed playing with their toys and that they were able to do things on their own.

The residents indicated satisfaction with the amount and type of activities they participate in and were provided transportation to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were five residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. Case files were reviewed for the four residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

Authorizations for two of the residents prescribed psychotropic medications were filed within the last six months. The other two authorizations were completed and signed by the psychiatrist within the last six months but were not filed with the court. This was discussed with management during the exit interview who stated that the authorizations had been sent to court. The psychiatrist's subsequent call to the court disclosed that the forms could not be located, and thus had to be resubmitted. The psychiatrist's written explanation of the situation corroborated management's statement.

Because there had been a problem with the timeliness of authorizations during the last review, management was informed that a more vigorous follow-up effort had to be made to obtain court authorizations in a timely manner.

We confirmed that the psychiatrist routinely sees the residents to evaluate their medication and progress in therapy.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The policies, rules and regulations were discussed with the residents upon arrival at the facility. There was an appropriate rewards and discipline system in place which the residents felt was used in a fair manner.

The residents indicated that there was a sufficient number of staff providing care for them and that they felt safe and cared for in the home. They stated that staff treated them well and expressed fondness for the staff and the director. The residents felt that staff was culturally sensitive and respectful of the background and ethnicity. The residents were free to get snacks and stated that they enjoyed the meals.

One resident was placed at the facility very recently and stated that his social worker had not provided him with any telephone numbers yet. The other resident indicated that he was able to have telephone contact with his placement worker and family and that telephone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy.

The residents were provided with regular medical and dental care visits and neither expressed any concern about their religious freedom.

Resident chores were minimal and consisted of supporting the residents' efforts to gain sufficiency and expertise in activities of daily living.

One resident was prescribed psychotropic medication and expressed an age appropriate understanding of the reason for his medication. He stated that he had not refused his medication but did not like taking medication because "they taste nasty."

The residents stated the agency respected their personal rights and reported an overall satisfaction with the facility.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Residents are provided with at least the required minimum weekly allowance which they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

J.E.E.B. provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.